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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Azerbaijdzhan SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Party School of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijdzhan Communist Party ( <i>purposes, organization, curriculum, requirements, text books, description of facility, faculty</i> )	DATE DISTR.	6 May 1958
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. This school is officially known as the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (CC/CP), Azerbaijdzhan SSR, and is located in Baku at No. 84 ulitsa Lermontova at the corner of Buynakskaya ulitsa. As the school's name indicates, it was not organized by the Soviet Ministry of Education, but by the Communist Party. It is exclusively guided and directly supervised by the Propaganda and Agitation Section (Otdel Propagandy i Agitatsii, Agit-Prop) of the CC/CP of the Azerbaijdzhan SSR, which is located in a medium-size building on the other side of ulitsa Lermontova No. 107, on the corner of ulitsa Chkalova.
2. One Party school of this type was established in each of the Soviet republics soon after the end of World War II. According to the official explanation, the reason for the introduction of such schools was based on the Party's intention to have responsible Party workers better prepared for their political jobs and thereby to increase the political reliability of the Soviet masses. [ ] however, [ ] this official reason is of secondary significance and [ ] primarily the reason was the intention of the Party to produce properly prepared activists who at first will be used as the eyes of the Party and the executors of every Party wish, and who, after years of experience, will be able to work as the brains of the Party and the Soviet Government. [ ] in 1952 there was only one Party school in each Soviet republic. He heard that exceptions were made in the larger republics, such as the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, and the Belorussian SSR where two or three Party schools were established in each.
3. The Baku Party School was organized during the summer of 1946 and began its first school year on 1 September 1946. At that time it was provided that each course of study in the school would last for two years. During the next several years, the Party authorities found out that the majority of the students, even high school graduates, did not follow satisfactorily this new kind of study because they were not properly prepared for it. Looking for a solution, the Party, after some other experiments, finally decided to organize the regular study in the school into three-year courses: the first year to be preparatory, and the other two to be basic study. After September 1953, the Party school in Baku, became a three-year school.

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4. Although the Baku Party School received all its instructions and programs from the Cultural Committee in Moscow through the Otdel Propagandy i Agitatsii in Baku and submitted to this authority most of its reports, requests, and accounts, it was commonly known that the Higher Party School in Moscow was the central organ where programs and study instructions were planned and then sent, through the proper branches of the Party, to all the Party schools in the USSR. For instance, on the bottom of each course program sheet used in the Baku school, there was a note in small letters "printed in the printing plant of the VPS (Higher Party School) in Moscow". These programs contained general reviews of the subject to be covered and lists of obligatory and suggested references.
5. The Propaganda and Agitation Section of the CC/CP of the AzSSR in Baku which directly supervised the school was headed in 1950-1952 by a Soviet named Gassanov. The specific directing functions of this section included:
  - a. Receiving all reports sent by the school to the Central Committee in Moscow and, when necessary, adding to these reports its own remarks, opinions, and suggestions.
  - b. Participating directly in the selection and appointment of the school director, teachers, and management personnel by making recommendations to the Central Committee in Moscow, where the final selection and approval as a rule was made.
  - c. Evaluating annually each school employee from director to janitor.
  - d. Every year organizing and approving candidate selections for the school. In addition, no student could be expelled from the school for any reason without prior approval of the section.
  - e. Every year planning and submitting to Moscow for approval, assignments for the newly graduated students.
  - f. Playing an important role in the selection of candidates for the Higher Party School in Moscow.
  - g. Paying from funds included in its budget the entire cost of the school's maintenance. In addition, the section takes care of providing buildings, transportation, books, and school equipment necessary for the school.
  - h. Directly supervising Party cells in the school, which in this case are not subordinate to the raykom.
6. Every candidate for the school had to be a Communist Party or Komsomol member. No one could personally apply for study in this school; the prospective candidates were selected and recommended to the school by a state organization, institution, or establishment. The main role in this selection is played by the Communist Party cell in the proper institution, and the acceptance of such recommendations depends upon the decision of the Agit-Prop of the Central Committee of the proper republic.
7. The Baku school did not require any proof of educational background from selected candidates; however, an entrance examination on middle school level is given by the school authorities. From the point of view of admittance to the school,

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in 1947-1951, regardless of the result of this examination, no selected candidate was rejected by the school. It is quite possible that the test served only to provide information about the knowledge of prospective students and to help the school authorities to classify them in the proper groups.

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8. In 1947, 120 Soviet citizens and 100 Iranians, who were called Azerbaijan Democrats, were admitted as new students to the school. This entire number was organized into groups. Soviet citizen groups were composed of 30-40 students, and the Azerbaijan Democrat groups contained 25 students each. Every student in the school was given a school identity card and credit booklet.
9. Teaching in the Baku School was conducted in two languages, Russian and Azerbaydzhanian, and students were free to choose which language was more suitable for them. Each group studied in a separate classroom, which was permanently assigned to it and had a group leader (starosta) appointed from the student body by the school authorities. The starosta of the first Soviet group was charged with representing, in case of necessity, all Soviet groups, and similarly, the starosta of the first of the Iranian groups represented all Azerbaijan Democrat groups.
10. Study in the Party school was composed of three basic subjects: History of the USSR and of the Party; political economy; and philosophy. There were other complementary subjects, such as stone age, middle ages, and contemporary world history; history of Azerbaydzhan; Soviet diplomacy; Russian and Azerbaydzhan literature; logic; Soviet state law; structure of the Communist Party in the USSR; world and USSR geography; history of the Middle East and Far East peoples; and main branches of the USSR national economy. In addition, there were organized trade lectures for Soviet citizens in order to improve their professional knowledge. These lectures were particularly for those who worked in industry, rural industry, agriculture, for those who were newspaper correspondents, cooperative organizers, Komsomol leaders, Party cell organizers, and some others. At the time of graduation, every Soviet student had to prepare a special essay on his specialty in order to get a diploma.
11. The school authorities continuously emphasized the importance of the three basic subjects; they were obligatory for all students. Lessons on these subjects were more frequent and study of them lasted during the entire school period, while complementary subjects were studied no longer than six months each. Seminars were conducted quite frequently on the basic subjects which was not the case on complementary subjects. On complementary subjects marks were given during the usual class work on the basis of questions and answers and essays written in class; however, the essential condition for graduation was that the student pass a special state examination on the three basic subjects.
12. The academic hour in the school was 45 minutes. Usually every lesson was given for two consecutive academic hours. Seminars and written class work, depending on the significance of the subject, lasted from two to six hours without interruption. Quite frequently common lessons for the groups speaking the same language were held in the large auditorium.
13. During 1947-1951, there was a considerable shortage of required texts and source books. This situation became especially critical for the Iranian students at the end of their first year of study when the school authorities removed from use even the small number of Azerbaydzhan-language books printed in Latin characters which had been given to the Iranians a few months earlier. To compensate for this loss, the Iranians took notes from the Azerbaydzhan-language books in the Baku libraries or made translations from Russian books with the assistance of Soviet-Azerbaydzhan students.
14. Credit tests (zachety) were given on each subject twice a year, in January and at the end of the school year. The special body which supervised the state examination was usually composed of one delegate from the CC/CP of the Azerbaydzhan SSR, two or three professors who were specialists on the particular subject, and a representative of the school director. During tests for the Iranians, also present was a representative of the CC of the Azerbaijan Democrat Party.

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15. Fifty to sixty percent of the Soviets at the Baku school were Azerbaydzhani, and approximately thirty-five percent were Russian. There were also a few Armenians and Jews. Some of the students were no more than 20 or 21 years old, but some were 45 or 50. This same age span also applied to the Iranian contingent. [redacted] there was no specified age limit for students of this school. Regardless of how poorly any student progressed in his studies, he was not dismissed from the school. The only cases of dismissal [redacted] were instances in which students were released or expelled from the school as the result of low morality, such as theft; bad behavior, such as drunkenness or disorderly conduct; or at the student's own request. In all these cases, the final decision was always made by the Otdel Propagandy i Agitatsii of the CC/CP of the Azerbaydzhani SSR. 25X1
16. It was apparent that the CP authorities sent to these schools only those students who are considered the most valuable, who have already proved their efficiency and ability, and who are designated for further promotion in Party ranks. It is assumed that knowledge acquired in the Party school will help such selected persons in the accomplishment of their future jobs and missions. Furthermore, the student's achievements in school and the opinions he forms during the course of his studies will help higher Party authorities in making proper selections among Party ranks. Protection and favoritism frequently play the most decisive role in Party promotions; nevertheless, [redacted] today even the most active Party worker can scarcely hope for any significant promotion in the Party unless he has finished the Party school. 25X1
17. Students in the Soviet citizen groups, regardless of age, were not beginners in Party activity nor merely rank-and-file Party members. Every one of them had already had at least a few years of experience and had proved himself to be at least a promising and fully loyal Party worker.
18. The basic subjects offered at the Baku school included the following:
- a. History of the Party
    - 1) The workers' revolutionary movement in Russia in the 19th Century until the first congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers Party (RSDRP) in 1888.
    - 2) Crystallization of Menshevism and Bolshevism in the 20th Century.
    - 3) Imperialism in Russia after the first Russian revolution in 1905-1907.
    - 4) The Party in the period of Stalin's underground activity.
    - 5) The Party in the period of crystallization of revolutionary ideas.
    - 6) The Party in the period of the First World War.
    - 7) The Party in Lenin's period after World War I.

The basic text used was the Short Course of VKP-(b) composed of 14 chapters (latest edition of 12 chapters).

- b. Political Economy. This subject was considered to be the most important in the school because political economy is the fundamental basis of the Marx-Lenin theory. Study was divided into the following:
  - 1) Precapitalistic production systems (primeval, communal, slave-owning, feudalistic).
  - 2) Capitalist system of production (good production and money; organization of the capitalist cooperative system and manufacturing; wages;

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accumulation of capital and pauperism of the working masses).

- 3) Circulation and turnover of money (average profits from and costs of production; trade; commerce; credit; agrarian question under capitalism; land ownership and rents; exploitation of peasants).
- 4) National economy (economic crises).
- 5) Imperialism (the higher form of capitalism; monopoly; colonial system; historical sites of imperialism; economic theories in the epoch of imperialism).
- 6) Socialistic system of production (transitory period from capitalism to socialism; basic characteristics of this period; industrialism based on socialism; collectivization of rural agricultural economy; complete success of socialism in the USSR).
- 7) Socialistic system of national economy (principles of good production under socialism; communal property as the basis of production under socialism; calculation of selling prices in relation to production costs; laws under socialism concerning wages, money, and goods exchange; national income in a socialist economy; state budget; credit; money circulation).
- 8) Communism (gradual turning from socialism to Communism; Communism in the People's Democratic Republics; cooperation between these countries; farm collectivization and rural industrialization as the basic achievement in the People's Democratic Republics; significance of the CPSU for these countries).

The sources used for the study of political economy included the following:

- 1) Karl Marx - Capital; Communist Party Manifesto - with F. Engels; Significance of Work in the Development of the Human Body and Mind; Family, Private Property, and the Workers' Movement in the USA; The Peasant Question in France and Germany.
  - 2) V. I. Lenin - Capitalism in the Russian State; About the State; The State and the Revolution; Pauperism in Capitalist Society; Imperialism as the Highest Form of Capitalism; The Idea of the United States of Europe; New Economic Policy; Problems of Political Indoctrination; and several others.
  - 3) I. V. Stalin - Economic Problems in the USSR; Principles of Leninism; Economic Situation in the USSR and Comparty Policy; About the Agrarian Policy in the USSR; and several others.
- c. Philosophy. All lectures on this subject were conducted along the lines of Karl Marx' theory of philosophical and dialectical materialism. Sources used included the following:
- 1) K. Marx - Capital; Thesis on Feuerbah; Criticism of the Gothic Program.
  - 2) F. Engels - Anti-Duering; Dialectic of Nature; Ludwig Feuerbah and the end of German Classical Philosophy; The Origins of Family, Private, and State Property; The Development of Socialism from Utopia to Science.
  - 3) V. I. Lenin - (in addition to those mentioned above) Two Tactics of Social Democracy in Democratic Revolution; The Problem of Dialectics; Materialism and Empire Criticism; What to Do?; One Step Ahead and Two Back; Who are the So-called Friends of the People, and How They Fight

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Every year, in mid-summer, quite soon after state examinations, diplomas were given to students who were graduated in a simple school ceremony, in the presence of the Agit-Prop. of the CC/CP, Azerbaydzhan SSR. [ ] the diplomas given to those who had all excellent marks ( called otlichniki) were slightly different from the usual diplomas. [ ] only two special privileges were given to holders of Party school diplomas: (a) the right to be admitted without an examination to the Higher Party School or to the Academy of Social Sciences, both in Moscow; (b) the right to attend the third year course of the department of history in any university in the Soviet Union.

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The newly graduated students from the Baku Party School were given assignments as follows:

- a. Approximately 50 percent of them were sent back to their previous jobs.
- b. Approximately 30 percent received new jobs in all kinds of state institutions and organizations where they were supposed to do their normal work and to participate in local Party cell activity.
- c. Approximately 10 percent received new jobs directly in the Party apparatus.
- d. The remaining 10 percent, on their own request or on the suggestion of the Otdel Propagandy i Agitatsii, applied for continuation of their study.

The majority, approximately 70 percent, of the Iranians were given jobs in different institutions all over the Azerbaydzhan SSR. A few were sent to work in the RSFSR, and several were sent to a university to continue their studies. Ten or fifteen were assigned to work in the Azerbaijan Democrat Party. The Otdel Propagandy i Agitatsii sent to the Higher Party School in Moscow three Iranians, none of whom had ever attended the normal Party School in Baku or any other Party educational establishment.

A regular course in Marxism-Leninism, completely independent of the Party School, was given in Baku. The term of study in that course was two years, and the lessons were conducted in the evening.

In the Party school building and conducted by the same teachers there were:

- a. A nine-months' course each year;
- b. Irregularly, three and sometimes six months' courses.

The nine-month courses were given regularly for the purpose of improving the theoretical education and indoctrination of Party field workers, and of preparing some of them for study in the three-year Party school. Most of the students [ ] attending the nine-month course were rather young, that is, from 20 to 30.

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26. All other courses were organized sporadically and adjusted to the current, specific needs of the Soviet Government. Thus, they were not of a purely indoctrinating character; for instance, a six-month course for Party activists designated to work in the virgin islands (tselinnyye zemli) or a three month course for organizers of cotton weeding and cotton picking. Such courses were usually composed of two parts: (a) Political: training in organizing proper propaganda, and supervising workers' morale, efficiency, and behavior; and, (b) professional: lessons aiming to make an activist a real expert in the desired field, instruction in how to organize and guide the work, how professionally to assist and advise workers. Rather experienced Party workers, 30 and 40 years old, were sent to these sporadic courses.

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27. In regard to the Iranian Spetskontingent course, it was organized for the first time in the Baku Party School in the autumn of 1947. [ ] the CC/VKP(b) decided to establish such a course on the basis of negotiations between Pishevari and Bagirov. This course was given in two languages, Russian and Azerbaydzhanian. This fact clearly indicated that the course did not have a national Iranian character, since both languages were at that time completely strange to at least 80 per cent of the Iranian students. If to this fact is added the complete lack of necessary books in the Farsi language and the severe shortage of the same books even in Azerbaydzhanian, it will be easy to realize how difficult the study situation was for the students and why this course, originally planned for two years, was extended first to three years and later to four years. [ ] in the school term of 1947-48, the students were able to study, answer questions, and take verbal tests only through interpreters. All the programs of study were absolutely identical with those of regular courses in schools for Soviet citizens. During the third and fourth years (especially added for the Iranian students) they did not study any new subjects, but just repeated the course from the very beginning, following almost the same programs. This type of course ceased to exist at the end of the 1952-53 school term. Subsequently, all Iranian students (by this time they could speak Russian well) were incorporated into the regular course for Soviet citizens.

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28. In regard to the economic situation, [ ] in addition to 1,200 rubles monthly as a state scholarship, every student of the Spetskontingent was provided with full campus privileges. The dormitories were located on the NW corner of ulitsa Lermontova (No. 107) and ulitsa Chkalova; that is, quite separate from the school premises. This one-story brick building contained seven medium size rooms, one large room, one office, and a quite large kitchen. There was also one bath-toilet room and several compartments in the basement. There was a small courtyard behind this building. [ ] prior to 1947 (the year the boarding house was established), a rayon militia station was housed in that building. A special man was appointed by the school (or maybe the KGB) authorities as the dormitory superintendent. He was called Komendant obshchezhitiya. Three maids who kept the dormitory in order were under his direct supervision. This man also took care of student registration at the proper militia station. Actually, the students were left completely undisturbed under condition that: (a) after midnight all students were present in the dormitory; (b) they did not invite any outsider, even for a few minutes' stay, at any time of the day or night, into the building. During the day these conditions were checked by one of the maids and at night (from 1800 to 0600) by a man engaged for that purpose by the dormitory superintendent.

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29. Attachment 1 to this report is a description of the Baku Party School building. Attachment 2 is an annotation to, and layout of, the Baku Party School. Attachment 3, which has been deposited in the CIA Library from which copies are available, is a sketch with a legend of a part of Voroshilovskiy Rayon in Baku.

[ ] Comments:

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1. One Jaafar Pishevari was reported to be the Comintern's man in Azerbaydzhan in 1947.

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2. Mir-Dzhafar Abassovich Bagirov served as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaydzhan SSR from 1933 until March 1953. He was tried and executed for treason and counterrevolutionary activities in the spring of 1956.

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Attachment 1

1. The Baku Party School is housed in a large brick and stone three-story structure, apparently built in pre-Soviet times. It was always painted yellow, had no balconies, and is located in the Voroshilovskiy Rayon. Ulitsa Lermontova is at the front (western side) of the school premises. The building of the former Iranian Consulate (remodeled into an apartment house) adjoins the school on the eastern side. Buynakskaya (Sardurovshaya) ulitsa is on the northern edge of the school premises, and vacant building lots are on the southern side.
2. A very large main entrance gate (used by all students and teachers) is approximately in the middle of the building on ulitsa Lermontova. A second similar gate was on Buynakskaya ulitsa but was used for deliveries only. There is also a small exit door in the southern part of the building, but it was permanently closed.
3. A quite large two-level hall is located just behind the main entrance door on ulitsa Lermontova. A public pay telephone was on the wall just at the right of this entrance. A very high, glass-panelled door leading into the first floor corridor is situated directly across from the main entrance door. In the hall to the right of this door was a desk, with an intercommunications telephone, behind which sat an orderly, usually a woman, 24 hours a day. The orderly checked every student's identity card because unauthorized persons were not permitted to enter. To the left of the glass-panelled door there was a large wooden table and a large wooden bulletin board on the wall, on both of which were displayed internal school announcements and regulations and mail received by the students.
4. All floors in the building are parquet.
5. The building has a central heating system.
6. Book display cases along the walls of the first and second floor corridors.
7. There is an "L"-shaped third floor on the southeast part of the building only.
8. Besides the rooms mentioned in Attachment 2 there are also, in the basement, several rooms used for storage of coal, books, and other things.
9. The Assembly Hall was used for showing motion pictures. This hall has unusually high windows.
10. A kitchen, which cannot accommodate more than 300 persons, adjoins the school dining room.
11. Professors and administration personnel were provided with special passes (propusks).
12. No person was authorized to enter the school after midnight.
13. At night there was a special orderly at the entrance to the women's dormitory.

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Attachment 2

First Floor:

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1. Entrance Hall
2. Office
3. Secretary of the School
4. Head of the Study Department
5. School Director
6. Conference Room
7. Office for Secretarial Employees
8. Dean of Iranian Students
9. Party Cell Room
10. Auditorium
11. Head of the Administration Department
12. Book Exhibition
13. Teachers' Meeting Room
14. Profsoyuz Cell Room
15. Head of the Party Cell
- 16-18 Class Rooms
19. Doctor's Office
20. Women's Toilet
21. Women's Dormitory
22. Soyuzpechat Office
23. Cafeteria
24. School Clerks' Office
25. Cloak Room

Second Floor:

1. Assembly Room
2. Book Exhibition Room
3. Class Room
- 4&5. Auditorium

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6. Dining Room
- 7,8,9 Class Rooms
10. Men's Toilet
11. Men's Dormitory

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Basement:

1. Library and Reading Rooms
2. Barber Shop
3. Bedding Storage Room
- 4,5. Laundry and Bath House

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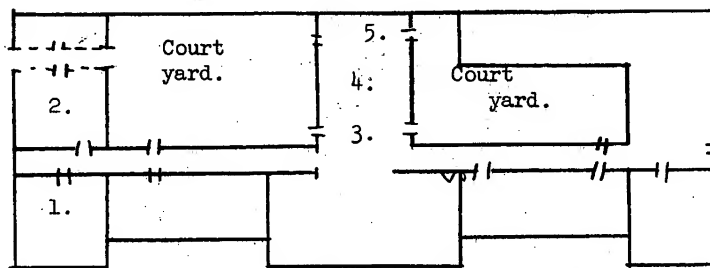
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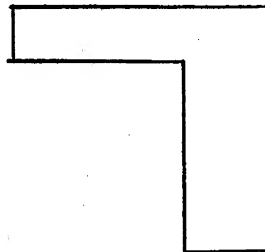
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Baku Party School.

Basement:



Third floor:



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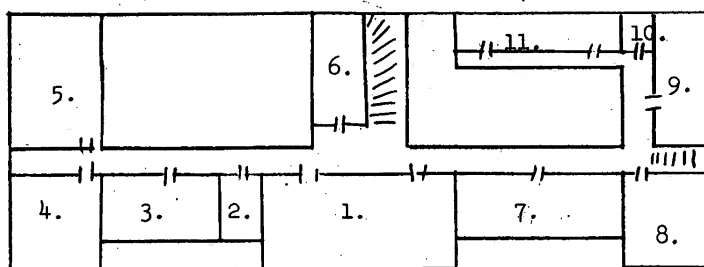
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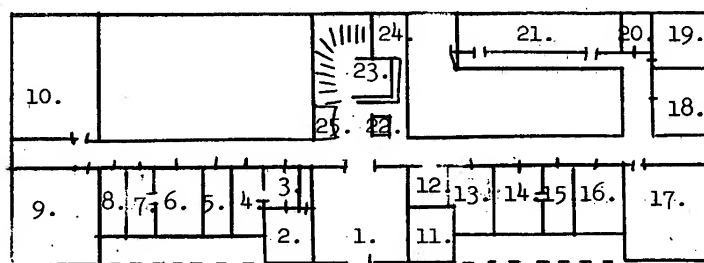
Baku Party School

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Second floor:



First floor:



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LEGEND

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Party school building

Iranian students boarding house

Court yards 25X1

Ts.K. KP. Az.SSR

Az.state university

Baku town council

Telephone exchange

2 polyclinic

2nd Militia station

Gates.

Part of Voroshilovskiy town rayon

in B A K U.

SECRET

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NORTH

SECRET

ПОМЕЩЕНИЕ ПАРТКОМ

ОБЩЕЖИТИЕ УРАНСКИХ  
ЭМИГРАНТОВ (ДЕМОКРАТОВ)

ДВОРА



ЗДАНИЕ ЦК КП АЗ ССР



АГУ



БАКИНСКИЙ СОВЕТ



ТЕЛЕФОННАЯ СТАНЦИЯ

2<sup>ая</sup> ПОЛИКЛИНИКА2<sup>ое</sup> ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ ПИИ

ВОРОТА - ДВЕРИ



ЧАСТЬ

ВРОШЛОВСКОГО  
РАЙОНА

г. БАКУ

БУЙНАКСКАЯ УЛ.

(УЛ. САРДАРОВА)

УЛ. ЛЕРМОНТОВА

УЛ. КОММУНИСТИЧЕСКАЯ

УЛ. ЧКАЛОВА

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